Avery County Schools
ATTN: Mike DeLine
E-Rate Form 470/RFP

We are seeking bids to distribute the MCNC/NCREN-provided Internet circuit connected at: Newland Elementary 750 Linville St, Newland, NC 28657 to eligible entities:

Site Name	Address	GB	GB
Newland Elementary	750 Linville St, Newland, NC 28657	10 GB	20 GB
Board of Education	775 Cranberry St, Newland, NC 28657	2 GB	5 GB
Avery High	401 Avery Co High School Rd, Newland, NC 28657	2 GB	5 GB
Avery Middle	102 Old Montezuma Rd, Newland, NC 28657	2 GB	5 GB
Cranberry Middle and Freedom Trail Elementary	6051 N US Hwy 19E, Elk Park, NC 28622	2 GB	5 GB
Banner Elk Elementary	155 Orchard Ln, Banner Elk, NC 28604	2 GB	5 GB
Crossnore Elementary	1000 Walt Clark Rd, Newland, NC 28657	2 GB	5 GB
Riverside Elementary	8020 US 19E Hwy S., Newland, NC 28657	2 GB	5 GB

We will consider offers for a leased lit fiber solution provided over a third-party network. However, proposals for solutions of all modes of transport that meet the requested scope of service requirements will be evaluated.

We are seeking a 5 YEAR contract with 2 voluntary extensions of one (1) year each.

Qualifications (subject to bid disqualification if not met):

1. SPI billing election (applicant's discretion) for up to the entirety of contract term.
2. Vendor must have current SPIN and annual SPAC.
3. Contract and billing dates reflect the E-Rate Fiscal Year (July 1-June 30).
   If connection is not active by July 1, service provider shall agree to pay 100% of applicant's costs to maintain a connection until the contracted connection is active.
4. Allow change in bandwidth speed with associated cost difference without penalty.
5. Ability to edit, add, or remove sites as needed without penalty.
6. Details of any additional and/or ineligible costs associated with the bid.
7. Breakdown of the estimated taxes, USF, and all other fees associated with the bid.
8. Vendors must be able to service the fiber link between 7:30am-4:30pm.

Vendor questions may be submitted to:
Mike DeLine and mikedeline@averyschools.net

- Questions must be submitted prior to November 10, 2026 at 4:30 PM

- Responses to submitted questions will be posted as addenda to this 470.
- Site visits must be scheduled and completed by November 17, 2026 at 4:30 PM.
- Bids are due by December 1, 2026 at 4:30 PM. Bids must be sealed and 1) mailed or 2) hand delivered to the address below:
  Avery County Schools - Board of Education
  Attn: Mike DeLine – E-RATE RFP
  775 Cranberry St
  Newland, NC 28657
- Bids will be opened and recorded via an open public meeting on December 2, 2026 at 9:00 am. No e-mailed or late bids will be accepted. Any emailed or late bids will be automatically disqualified.
- Bidders will be informed of contract award decisions. Contract to be signed by as soon as possible after board approval.

Bid evaluation criteria includes, but not limited to:

- Addressing all requirements in this RFP. Incomplete bids will be disqualified.
- Price of eligible products and services
- Prior experience
- Documented uptime of fiber network and vendor presence in local community.